



Case Study 35

Wodonga Police and Courts Complex

Wodonga VIC

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Wodonga Police and Courts Complex

The Wodonga Police and Courts Complex is functionally two buildings that share one facility, a custodial block located at their nexus. Its placement eliminated the need to transport prisoners to and from hearings and is, literally, central to the design.

The two functions have separate identities and addresses. Not surprisingly security and building services take the bulk of the budget “so the money left for the building skin was not very high,” says Lyon’s design architect Adrian Stanic. The building structure is conventional reinforced concrete columns with brickwork as a veneer sitting on shelf angles.

Despite the tight budget the Lyon’s team chose a highly decorative brickwork pattern. “Our experience is that you don’t pay a lot more for patterned brickwork. If you were to do a similar pattern in precast concrete the cost would be greater.”

Look closely and you will see that the red bricks describe a massive stretcher bond, complete with recessive cream brick “mortar joints.” At entries the red brick is “stripped back” to reveal the underlying cream brickwork.

The use of a common walling material underlines the building’s unity whereas the building form clearly differentiates the two functions.

Wodonga VIC

Client: Department of Justice

Architect: Lyons

Builder: Hansen Yuncken

Bricklayer: John Tyrell Brick Constructions

Building cost: \$9.9 m

Photography by Mark Munro

Links:

www.lyonsarch.com.au

www.hansenyuncken.com.au

Top: The court (left) and police (centre) functions of the building have separate frontages and identities. The brickwork pattern forms a massive graphic depicting three “courses” of stretcher bond
Bottom: The graphic is created from stack-bonded red brickwork laid in a three-course offset pattern with recessed cream brickwork describing the mortar joints.



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